

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00275 221956Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /070 W
-----041164 222005Z /46

P 221810Z JUL 77

FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1055
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL MONTREAL

UNCLAS QUEBEC 0275

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT CA
SUBJ: LEVESQUE AND BURNS

REF: QUEBEC 0273

1. AT HIS WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY (JULY 21), RENE LEVESQUE BLAMED EVERYTHING FROM "SUMMER MADNESS" TO MINISTERIAL EXHAUSTION FOR THE FAILURE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PARLIAMENTARY MANEUVER ON BILLS ONE/101. AS REPORTED REFTEL, PQ PARLIAMENTARY LEADER ROBERT BURNS IS TAKING THE HEAT FOR THE SNAFU, IS UNHAPPY ABOUT HAVING TO DO SO, AND HAS OFFERED TO RESIGN FROM HIS POST AS PARLIAMENTARY LEADER. LEVESQUE INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT BURNS WOULD CONTINUE AS GOVERNMENT HOUSE LEADER AT LEAST THROUGH THE END OF THE CURRENT SESSION.

2. LEVESQUE ACKNOWLEDGED GRUDGINGLY THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ERRED IN

NOT ALLOWING THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION ON BILL ONE TO PRESENT ITS FINDINGS TO THE ASSEMBLY, AND ADMITTED THE BLAME WAS PARTLY HIS OWN SINCE HIS CHEF DE CABINET, LOUIS BERTRAND, HAD "SAT IN ON" THE STRATEGY SESSION FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF BILL 101.
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PAGE 02 QUEBEC 00275 221956Z

3. THIS LUKEWARM MEA CULPA HAS EVIDENTLY NOT MOLLIFIED THE IRATE BURNS. WHEN ASKED HIS REACTION TO LEVESQUE'S COMMENT THAT BURNS WAS OVERTIRED AND OVERWORKED, BURNS SAID THAT THE PM WAS ENTITLED TO HIS OPINION BUT, AS FOR HIMSELF, HE FELT FINE.

4. BY WAY OF POSTSCRIPT, THE LIBERALS' CENSURE MOTION
WAS DEFEATED LATE LAST NIGHT, AS EXPECTED, ON A STRAIGHT
PARTY LINE VOTE 49-26, AND MESSRS BURNS AND LAURIN RESUMED
THEIR SEATS IN THE ASSEMBLY CHAMBER.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, LEGISLATIVE BILLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977QUEBEC00275
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770262-0906
Format: TEL
From: QUEBEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770729/aaaaaykt.tel
Line Count: 67
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d1bb5b65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 QUEBEC 273
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1775259
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEVESQUE AND BURNS
TAGS: PINT, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d1bb5b65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009